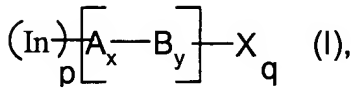
In the Claims

1-19. (cancelled)

20. (new) A process for preparing a composition comprising

a) 0.1 - 99.9 % by weight of a block copolymer of the formula:



$$(In)_p\left[A_x-B_y\right]-X_q \quad (I),$$

wherein:

In represents a polymerization initiator fragment of a polymerization initiator capable of initiating controlled atomic radical polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated monomers in the presence of a catalyst capable of activating controlled atomic radical polymerization selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_8-alkyl halides, C_6-C_{15}-aralkylhalides, C_2-C_8-haloalkyl esters, arene sulfonyl chlorides, haloalkanenitriles, α-haloacrylates and halolactones;

p represents one;

A represents a polymer block consisting of repeating units of acrylic or methacrylic acid-C_1-C_{24}-alkyl esters;

B represents a polymer block consisting of repeating units of acrylic or methacrylic acid-C_1-C_{24}-alkyl esters which are copolymerized with at least 50 % by weight of monomers carrying functional groups and wherein the monomers are selected from the group consisting of acrylic or methacrylic acid and salts thereof, acrylic or methacrylic acid-mono- or -di-C_1-C_4-alkylamino-C_2-C_4-alkyl esters and salts thereof, acrylic or methacrylic acid-hydroxy -C_2-C_4-alkyl esters, acrylic or methacrylamide, acrylic or methacrylic-mono- or -di-C_1-C_4-alkylamides, acrylic or methacryl-amino-C_2-C_4alkylamides, and vinyl substituted heterocycles selected from the group consisting of vinylpyrrolidone, vinylimidazole or salts thereof and vinylcarbazole;

x and y represent numerals greater than zero and define the number of monomer repeating units in polymer blocks A and B;

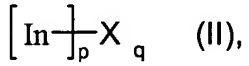
X represents a polymer chain terminal group; and

q represents a numeral greater than zero; and

b) 0.1 - 99.9 % by weight of dispersible inorganic or organic pigment particles,

provided that thermosetting compositions are excluded,

which method comprises copolymerizing by atom transfer radical polymerization fragments A and B in the presence of polymerization initiator:

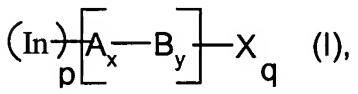


(II),

wherein, In, p and q are defined as above and X represents halogen and a catalytically effective amount of a catalyst capable of activating controlled atomic radical polymerization, replacing X with a different polymer chain terminal group X' and adding dispersable pigment particles and optionally binder materials, fillers or other conventional additives.

21. A process for preparing a pigment dispersion comprising a dispersed phase consisting of

a) a block copolymer of the formula I,



(I),

wherein:

In represents a polymerization initiator fragment of a polymerization initiator capable of initiating controlled atomic radical polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated monomers in the presence of a catalyst capable of activating controlled atomic radical polymerization selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_8-alkyl halides, C_6-C_{15}-aralkylhalides, C_2-C_8-haloalkyl esters, arene sulfonyl chlorides, haloalkanenitriles, α-haloacrylates and halolactones;

p represents one;

A represents a polymer block consisting of repeating units of acrylic or methacrylic acid-C_1-C_{24}-alkyl esters;

B represents a polymer block consisting of repeating units of acrylic or methacrylic acid-C_1-C_{24}-alkyl esters which are copolymerized with at least 50 % by weight of monomers carrying functional groups and wherein the monomers are selected from the group consisting of acrylic or methacrylic acid and salts thereof, acrylic or methacrylic acid-mono- or -di-C_1-C_4-alkylamino-C_2-C_4-alkyl esters and salts thereof, acrylic or methacrylic acid-hydroxy -C_2-C_4-alkyl esters, acrylic or methacrylamide, acrylic or methacrylic-mono- or -di-C_1-C_4-alkylamides, acrylic or methacryl-amino-C_2-C_4alkylamides, and vinyl substituted heterocycles selected from the group consisting of vinylpyrrolidone, vinylimidazole or salts thereof and vinylcarbazole;

x and y represent numerals greater than zero and define the number of monomer repeating units in polymer blocks A and B;

X represents a polymer chain terminal group; and

q represents a numeral greater than zero;

b) dispersed pigment particles; and

c) a liquid carrier selected from the group consisting of water, organic solvents and mixtures thereof

which process comprises dispersing in the liquid carrier pigment particles in the presence of a block copolymer of the formula I.